

JACK C. LEDFORD

AD/OSA

6423

24 DEC 63

TOP SECRET

STATE DEPT, D/NRO, JRC

DIRECTOR

34321

25X1A

25X1A

OPCEN 8639

IMMEDIATE TO STATE DEPT, D/NRO, AND JRC. TOP SECRET. THIS IS

A [REDACTED] MESSAGE. HANDLE VIA [REDACTED] CONTROL SYSTEM.

25X1A

OPERATION [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25X1A

1. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE SPECIAL CAMERA BEING UTILIZED IN [REDACTED] OPERATION SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH GENERAL HARKINS, AT SAIGON, VIA OPCEN CHANNELS, FOR HELICOPTER RECOVERY OF PILOT AND CAMERA IN THE EVENT OF FORCED LANDING IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. GENERAL HARKINS' STAFF HAS POSED THE QUESTION OF RECOVERY ATTEMPT ACROSS LAOTIAN OR CAMBODIAN BORDERS, IF SO, SPECIAL AUTHORITY IS DESIRED. OPCEN IS REPLYING THAT PRESENT EXISTING RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WILL APPLY TO OPERATION [REDACTED] IF DOD OR STATE HAS OTHER OPINIONS PLS ADVISE IMMEDIATE. FIRST OPERATION SCHEDULED FOR TAKEOFF APPROX 1800 HRS EST, 25 DEC.

25X1A

END OF MESSAGE

JACK C. LEDFORD

AD/OSA

TOP SECRET